

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & WILDLIFE
CENTRAL REGION'S
WILDLIFE AREA MEETING**

08/16/2014

Fish and Game Code

- **FISH AND GAME CODE**
- **DIVISION 2. DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME [700 - 1940]**
- **CHAPTER 7.5. Native Species Conservation and Enhancement [1750 - 1772]**
- **ARTICLE 2.5. Bird Habitat Conservation [1758- 1758.]**
- **1758.**
- The department shall annually provide an opportunity for licensed hunters to comment and make recommendations on the public hunting programs, including anticipated habitat conditions in the hunting areas on Type A and Type B Wildlife Areas, as defined under the commission's regulations, through public meetings or other public outreach. In complying with this section, the department may hold regional meetings on its hunting programs for several different wildlife areas.
- *(Added by Stats. 2013, Ch. 387, Sec. 2. Effective January 1, 2014.)*

General Comments

- Water supply is 50% of a normal year for State wildlife areas in the San Joaquin Valley.
- Appropriative water pumping rights were curtailed. Used our riparian rights for summer irrigations instead.
- Deep wells were used for some summer irrigations and will also be used to augment some surface supplies for fall flood-up. This has allowed the state to reallocate surface supply to other areas. *(Deep wells cannot generate enough water to fully flood and maintain wetlands by themselves and water quality can also be an issue).*
- Last winter 3,650 acre feet of water was conserved from our 2013-14 water allotment and was carried over to water year 2014-15.
- DFW is working with other agencies and NGOs to ensure wetland habitat and water supplies are distributed across the flyway to best benefit waterfowl and other birds.
- A lack of foraging habitat for early migrating waterfowl and the depletion of late season forage may be two significant effects of the current drought.
- Season Passes and Reservations will be available for sale September 1st.

Los Banos Wildlife Area Complex

William Cook Jr
Manager, LBWAC

Los Banos Wildlife Area
Mud Slough Unit
Volta Wildlife Area
Little Panoche Reservoir Wildlife Area
Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area
San Luis Reservoir Wildlife Area
O'Neil Forebay Wildlife Area



California Department of
Fish and Wildlife

Los Banos WA Highlights and Challenges 2014/2015

- 800 acres of watergrass and swamp timothy irrigated
- DU and CWA projects completed.
- 80 acres of safflower planted for dove hunting. A 100 hunter limited reservation hunt with a fill-in lottery draw the night before will occur similar to previous opening days.
- Wetland acreage reduced to approximately 70% of a normal year and flood later than usual.
- Hunter quota reduced throughout the season.

LBWA & CVPIA

Normal Water Supply - 21,412 acre ft

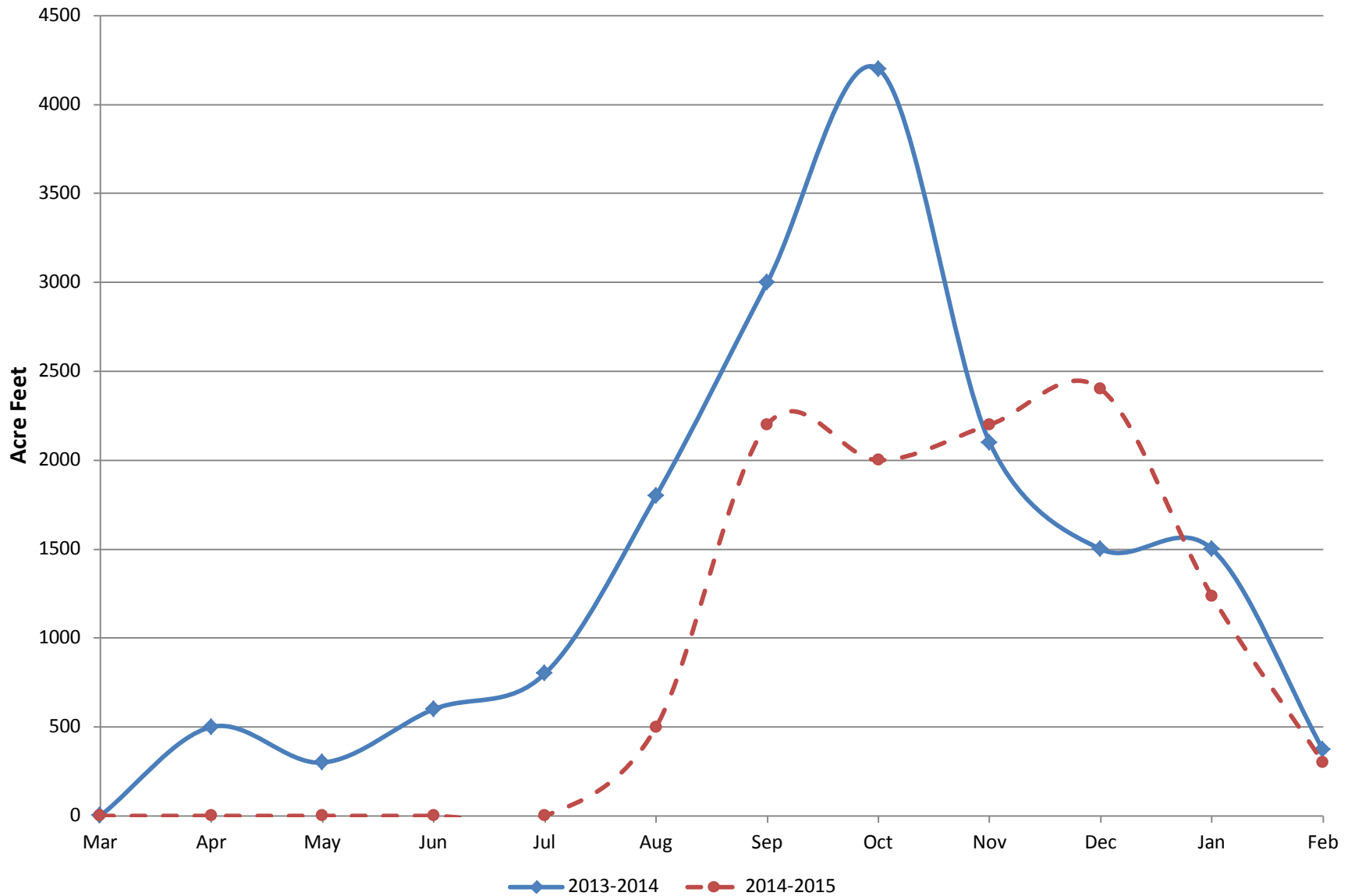
Ten year average

2014-15 Water Supply at 65% of Level 2

10,835 acre ft (which is approx. 50% of normal)

Los Banos Wildlife Area

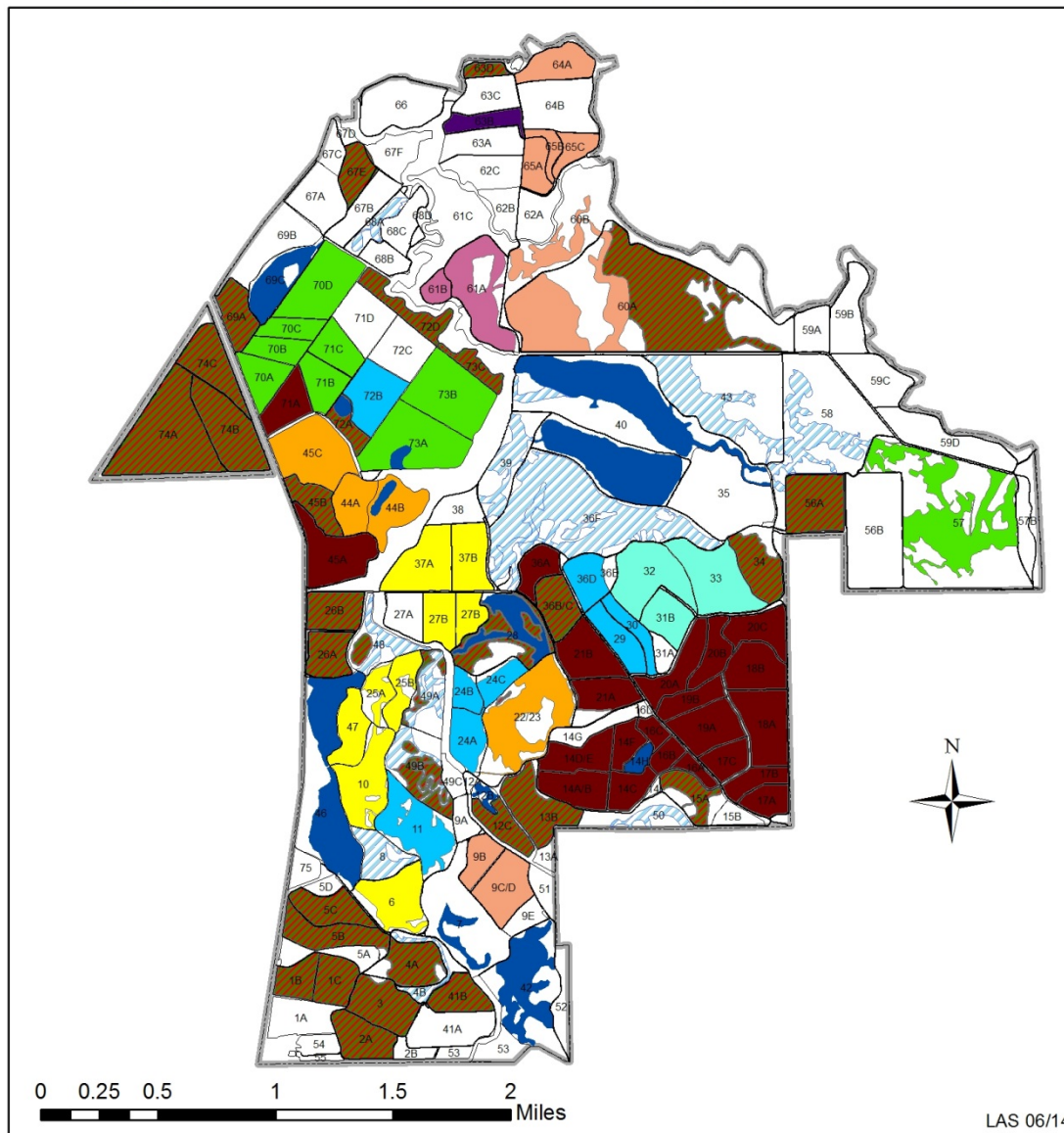
Water Use





Los Banos Wildlife Area 2014 Flood-up Schedule

Flood Date



Los Banos WA Hunter Quotas 2014/2015

Date	Acres Flooded	2014-15 Hunter Quota	2013-14 Hunter Quota
Opening Day	995	60	135
November 1	1050	60	115
December 1	1520	90	115
January 1	1740	105	120

Volta WA Highlights and Challenges 2014/2015

- Late draw down and late rains lead to good swamp timothy production
- No irrigations were done.
- BOR deep wells ran throughout the summer to keep Volta Wasteway and F10 wet for Giant Garter Snake habitat. This summer water will help make the water available for Fall floodup and Winter maintenance go further.
- DU Project Completed in F1
- Wetland Acreage reduced to 85% of a normal year but flooded similar to previous years
- Hunter quota not significantly reduced throughout the season

Volta WA & CVPIA

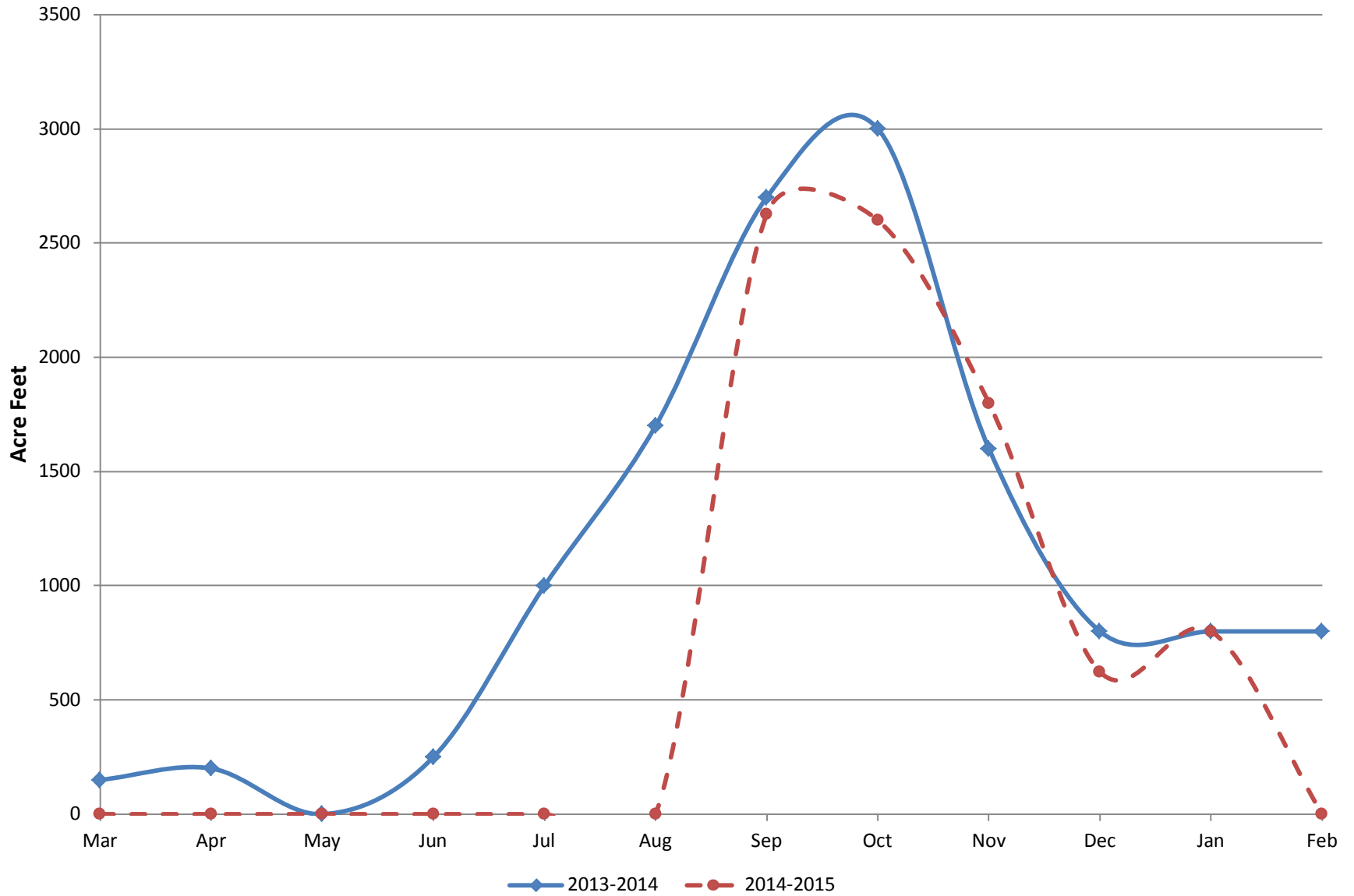
Normal Water Supply - 11,855 acre ft

Ten year Average

2014-15 Water Supply Level 2 at 65%
10,277 acre ft (includes 1,827 acre feet
of carryover water from 2013-14
water year)

Volta Wildlife Area

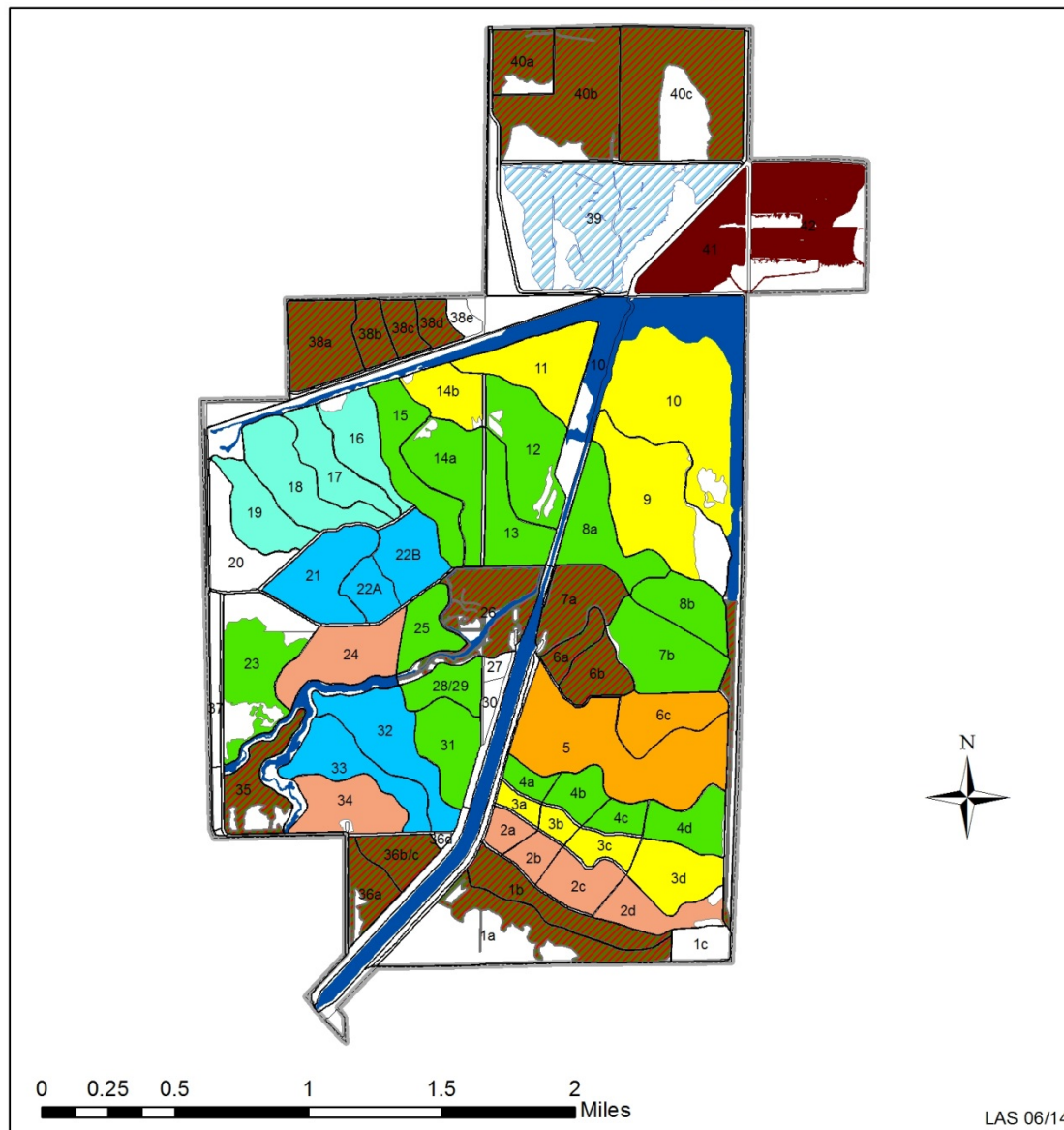
Water Use





Volta Wildlife Area 2014 Flood-up Schedule

Flood Date



Volta WA Hunter Quotas

2014/2015

Quotas are our best estimate and subject to change

Date	Acres Flooded	2014-15 Hunter Quota	2013-14 Hunter Quota
Opening Day	1574	80	130
November 1	1574	80	110
December 1	1763	90	110
January 1	1763	90	110

Mud Slough Unit

Los Banos WA Highlights and Challenges 2014/2015



- Late drawdowns and some irrigations using recirculated water grew good swamp timothy
- Watergrass cells 5AB were irrigated.
- The area should be completely flooded by December and all blinds should be available.
- Late January water may not be available and wetlands may drop(depending on the weather)



Mud Slough Unit 2014 Flood-up Schedule

Los Banos Wildlife Area

Flood Date

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Sept. 1 - 15 (107 acres) |  Nov. 15 - Dec. 1 (57 acres) |
|  Oct. 1 - 15 (36 acres) |  Not Flooded (51 acres) |
|  Oct. 15 - 31 (34 acres) | |



Mud Slough Unit

Los Banos WA Hunter Quotas

2014/2015

Quotas are our best estimate and subject to change

Date	Acres Flooded	2014-15 Hunter Quota	2013-14 Hunter Quota
Opening Day	176	14	18
November 1	176	14	18
December 1	233	18	18
January 1	284	18	18

North Grasslands Wildlife Area Complex

Steve Miyamoto
Manager, NGWAC



California Department of
Fish and Wildlife

Salt Slough Unit
Gadwall Unit
China Island Unit

Salt Slough Unit

North Grasslands WA Highlights and Challenges 2014/2015

- All watergrass cells that will be flooded this year were irrigated using recirculated water.
- 27 acres of safflower were planted and a limited reservation hunt on Sept. 1st with a fill-in lottery draw the night before will occur similar to previous opening days.
- 60% of the area will be flooded by December and the opening day quota will be reduced by 50%.
- DU Main Ditch Renovation project was completed and has increased our delivery capabilities and water conservation efficiency.

Salt Slough Unit & CVPIA

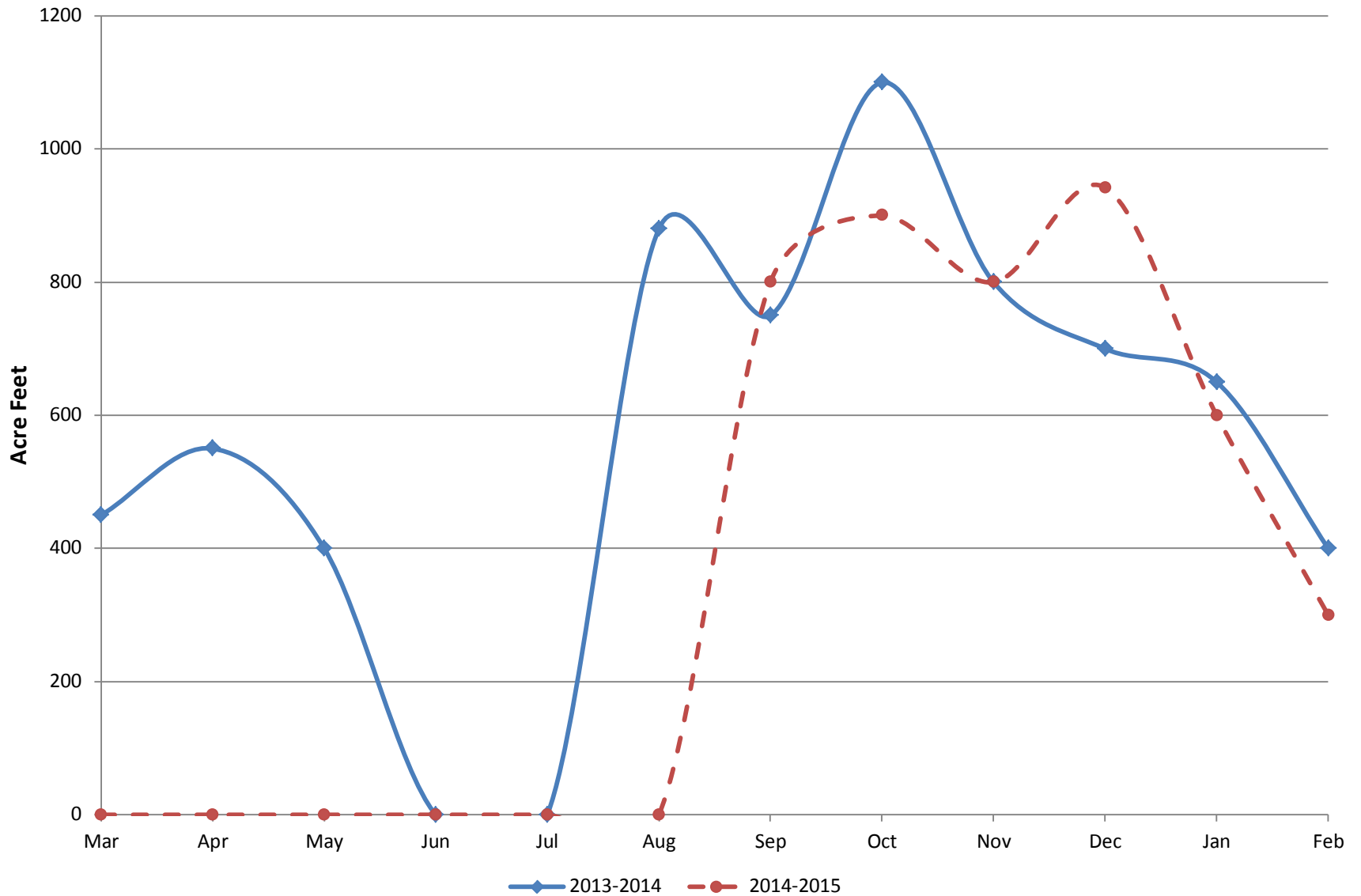
Normal Water Supply - 9,377 acre ft
Ten year Average

2014-15 Water Supply Level 2 at 65%

5186 acre ft. (which is approx. 50% of Normal)
(includes 844 acre ft of carryover water
from 2013-14 water year)

North Grasslands WA - Salt Slough Unit

Water Use

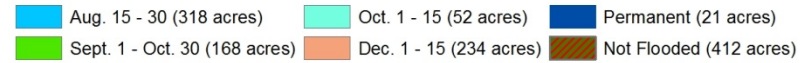




Salt Slough Unit 2014 Flood-up Schedule

North Grasslands Wildlife Area

Flood Date



Salt Slough Unit

North Grasslands WA

Hunter Quotas 2014/2015

Quotas are our best estimate and subject to change

Date	Acres Flooded	2014-15 Hunter Quota	2013-14 Hunter Quota
Opening Day	538	34	60
November 1	538	34	60
December 1	772	40	60
January 1	772	40	60

China Island Unit

North Grasslands WA Highlights and Challenges 2014/2015

- Fall flooding will be accomplished using deep well pumping to augment surface water supplies.
- 3,000 af water has been reallocated to Mendota WA, increasing the Mendota supply by 12%.
- Watergrass cells were irrigated.
- Anticipate 50-60% of seasonal wetlands will be flooded by late December.
- China Island will be open on opening day of waterfowl season, hunter quotas will be reduced.
- 26 acres of safflower and 45 acres of wheat were planted and a dove hunting reservation program will be available for 45 hunters. No lottery will be held. Fill in hunting will be done by first come first served at the main parking lot 1 hour before shoot time.

China Island Unit & CVPIA

Normal Water Supply - 8,607 acre ft

Ten year Average (1989 report USBR)

2014-15 Water Supply Level 2 at 65%

4,529 acre ft (which is approx. 50% of Normal)

3,000 acre ft reallocated to Mendota WA

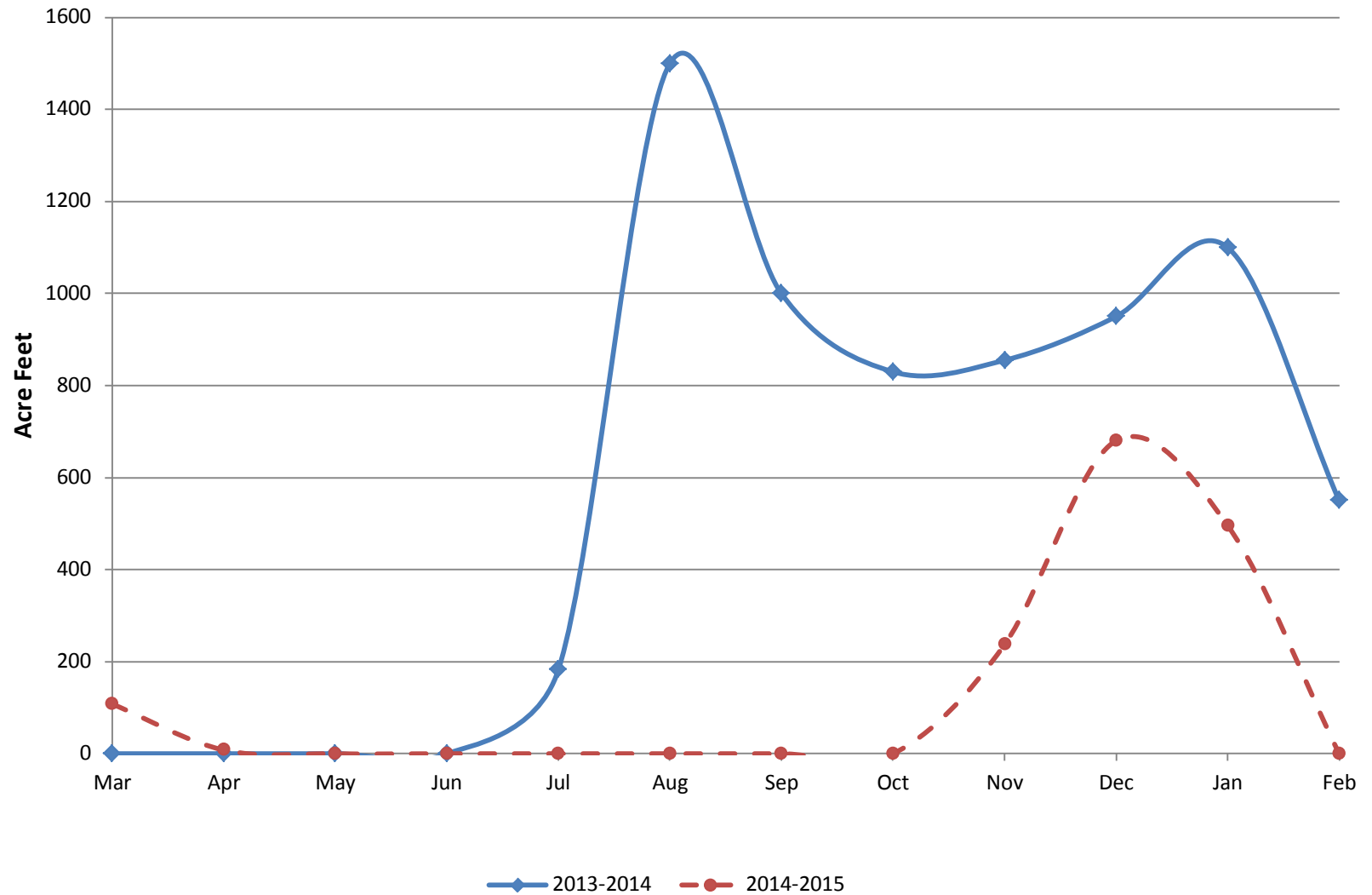
1,529 acre ft adjusted surface allocation

Three deep wells will be used to flood

China Island seasonal wetlands

North Grasslands WA - China Island Unit

Water Use

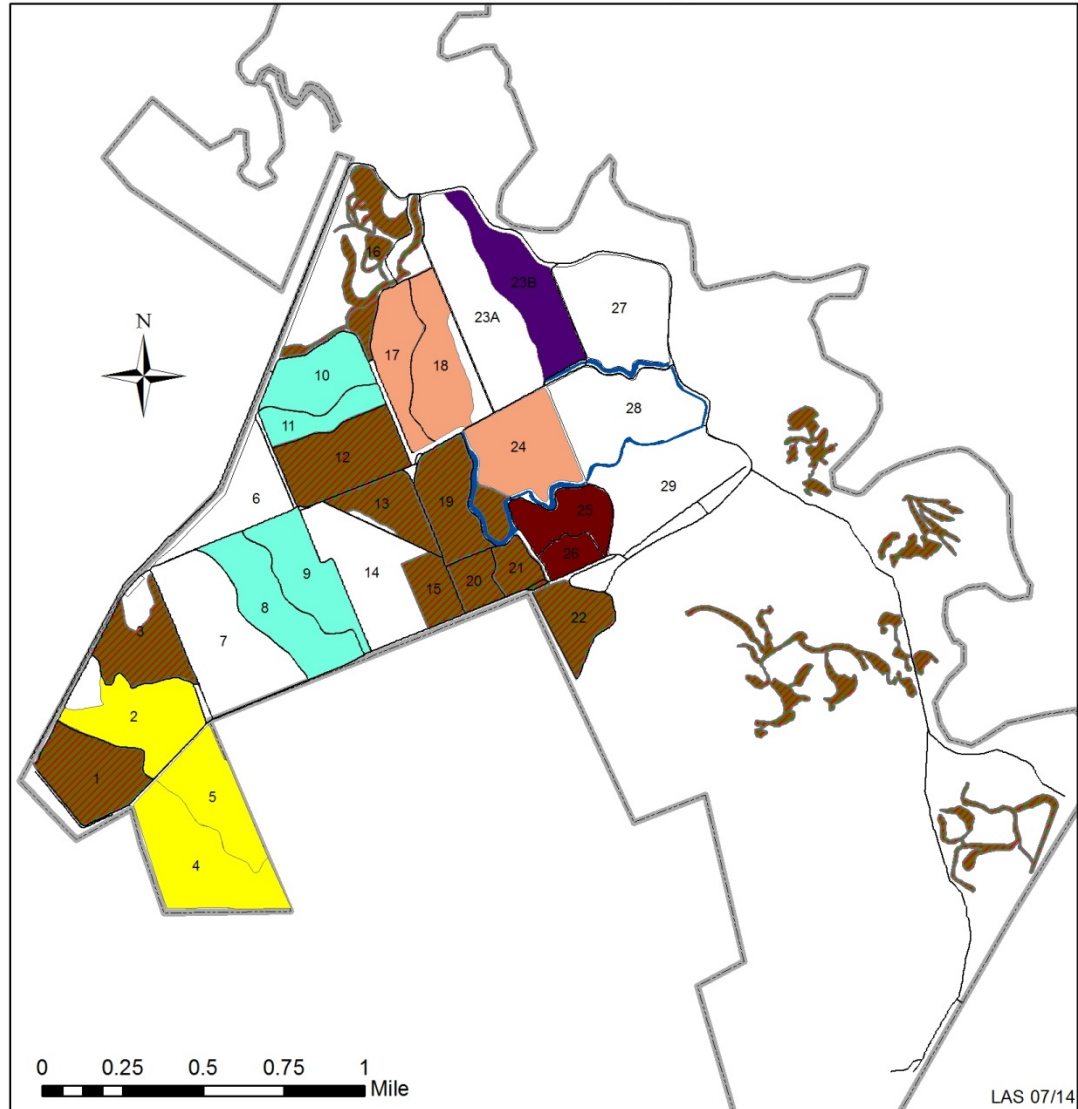




China Island Unit 2014 Flood-up Schedule

North Grasslands Wildlife Area

Flood Date



China Island Unit

North Grasslands WA

Hunter Quotas 2014/2015

Quotas are our best estimate and subject to change




Date	Acres Flooded	2014-15 Hunter Quota	2013-14 Hunter Quota
Opening Day	301	10	32
November 1	339	10	32
December 1	465	15	32
January 1	514	15	32




Gadwall Unit


North Grasslands WA Highlights and Challenges 2014/2015

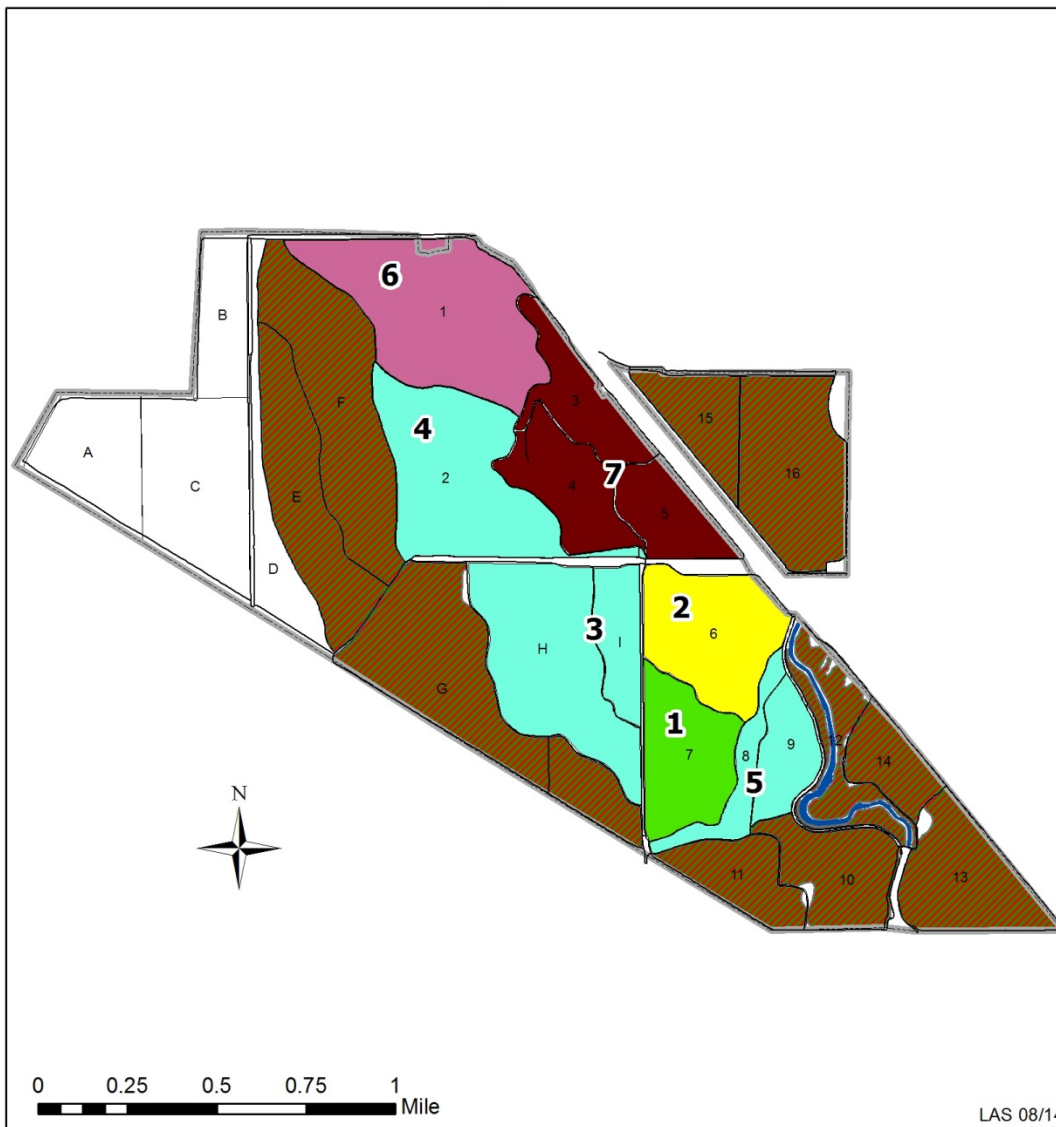
- Late drawdown and spring rains resulted in good swamp timothy production.
- No irrigations were done.
- The area is severely impacted by lack of water supply. The Grassland Water District will only be able to supply 1.3 acre feet per acre.
- Hunter quota will be less than half of a normal year.



 Sept. 23 (62 acres)
  Oct. 1 - 15 (314 acres)
  Nov. 1 (133 acres)

 Sept. 30 (79 acres)
  Oct. 15 - Nov. 1 (132 acres)
  Permanent (8 acres)

* Priorities are written in bold numbering.
  Not Flooded (678 acres)



Gadwall Unit

North Grasslands WA

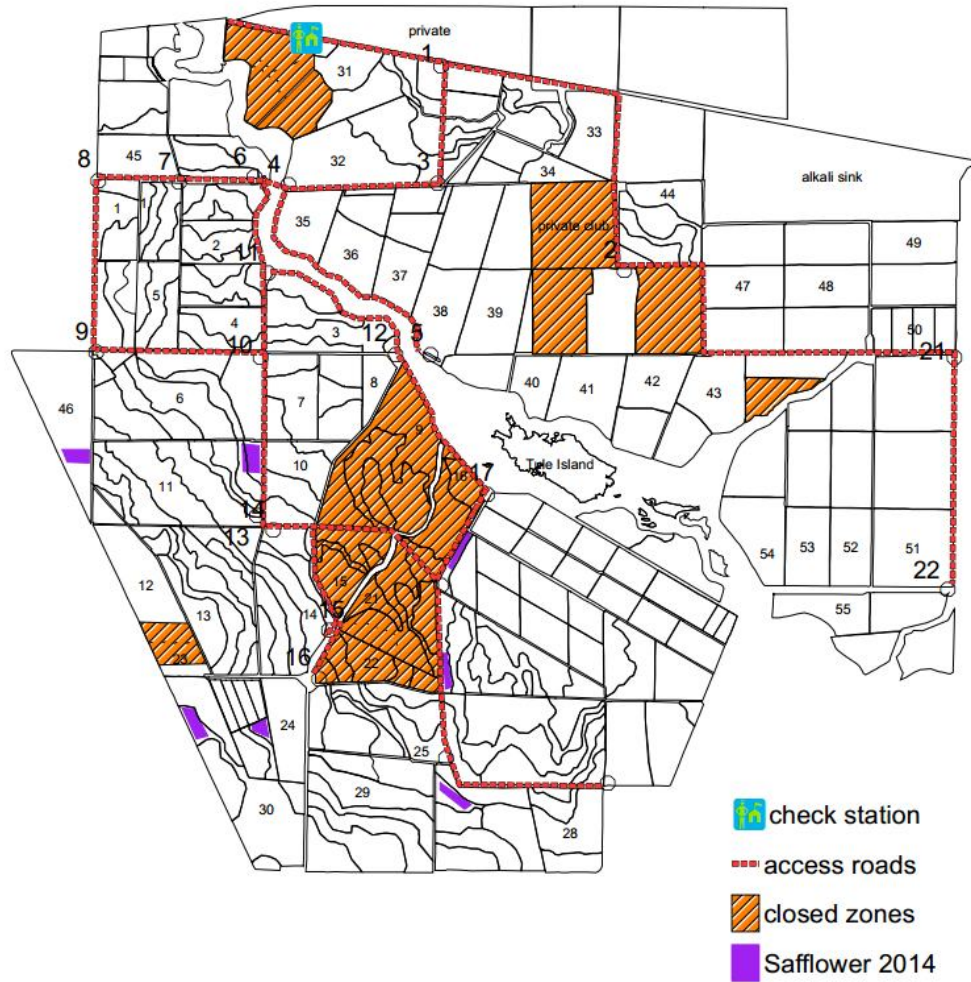
Hunter Quotas 2014/2015

Quotas are our best estimate and subject to change

Date	Acres Flooded	2014-15 Hunter Quota	2013-14 Hunter Quota
Opening Day	196	10	24
November 1	196	10	24
December 1	329	10	24
January 1	329	10	24

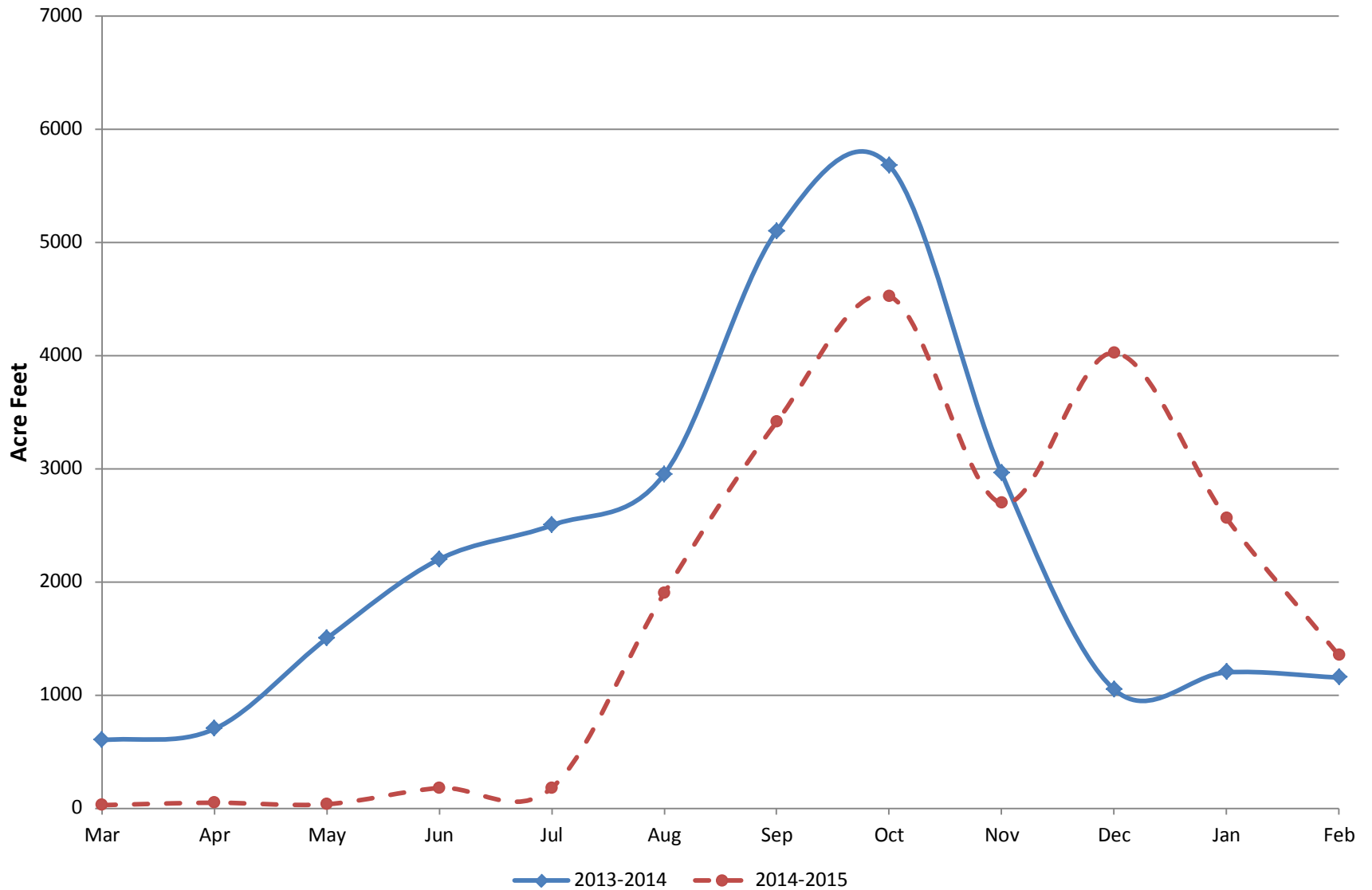
Mendota Wildlife Area

Dove 2014



Mendota Wildlife Area

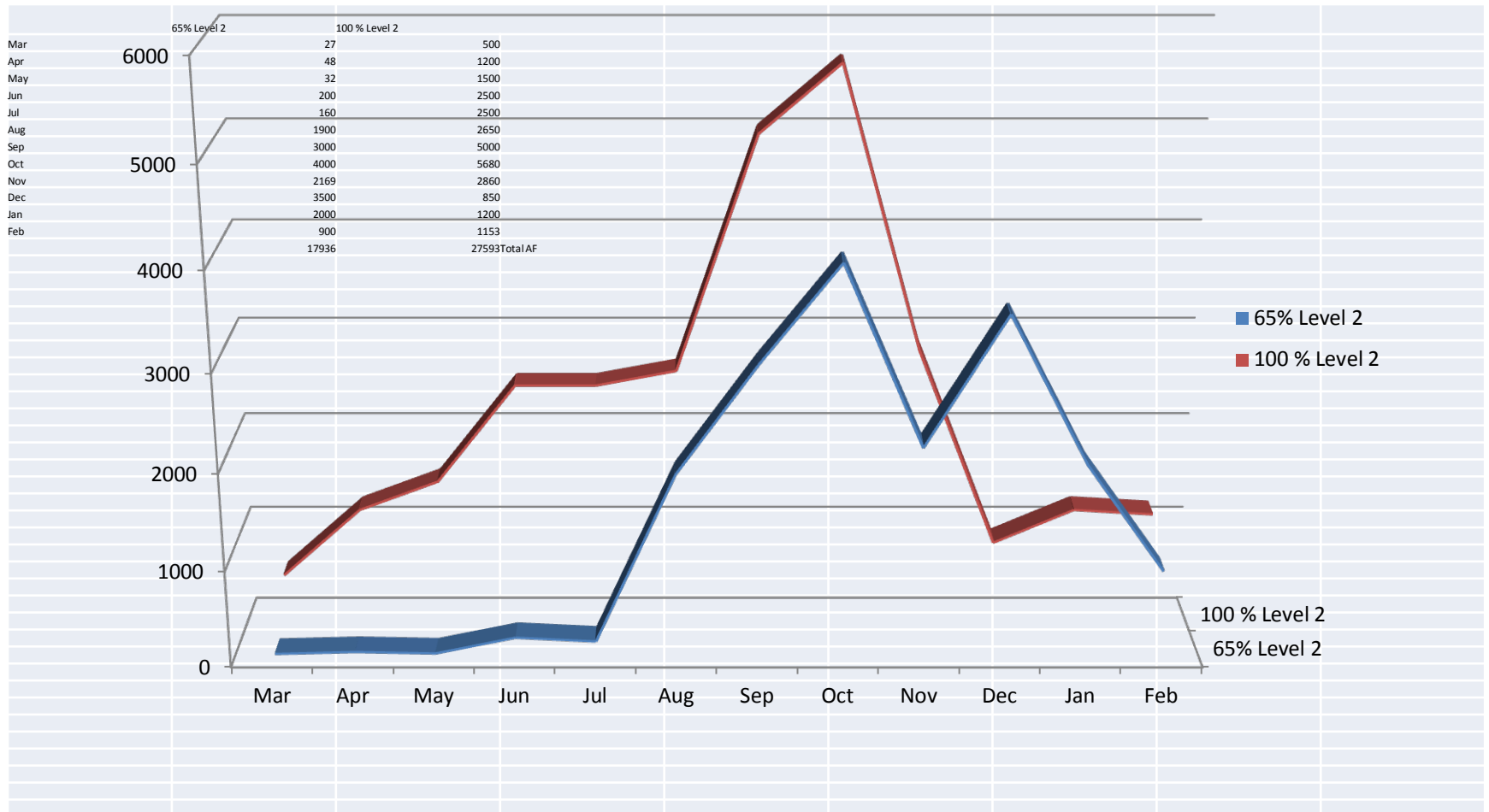
Water Use



Mendota Wildlife Area

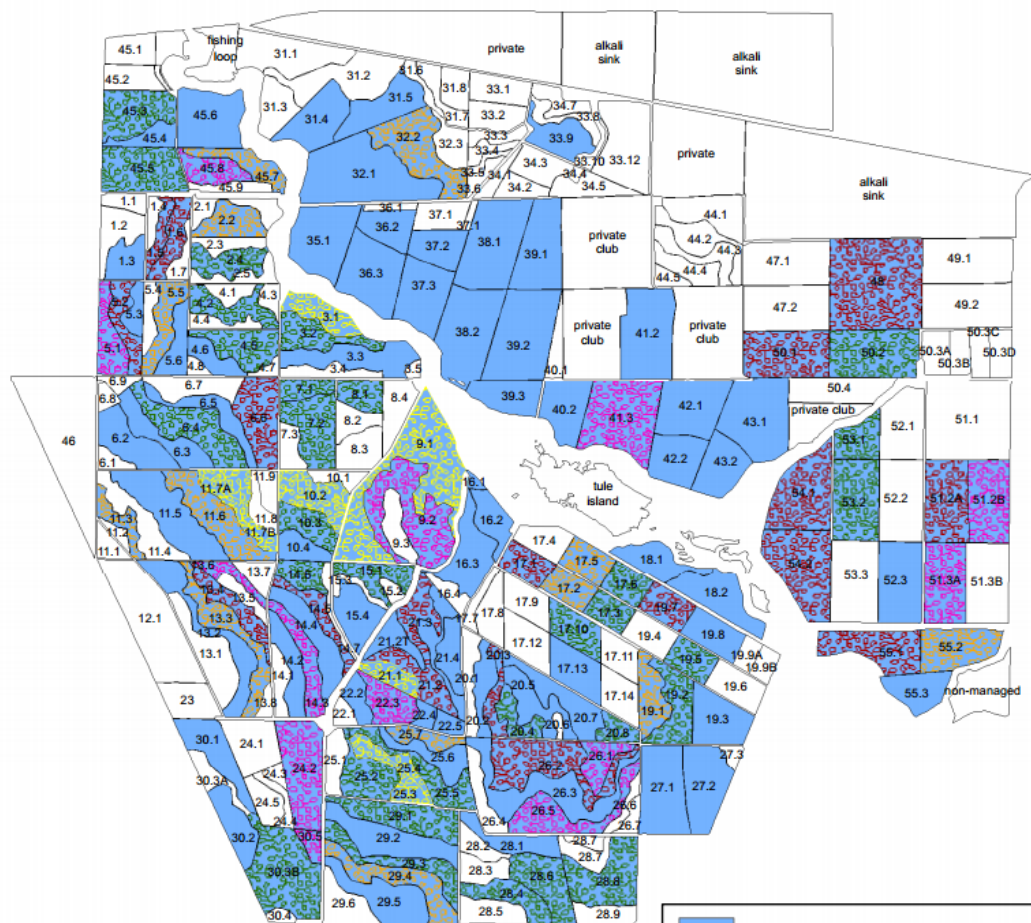
Water Use

100% Level 2 vs 65% Level 2





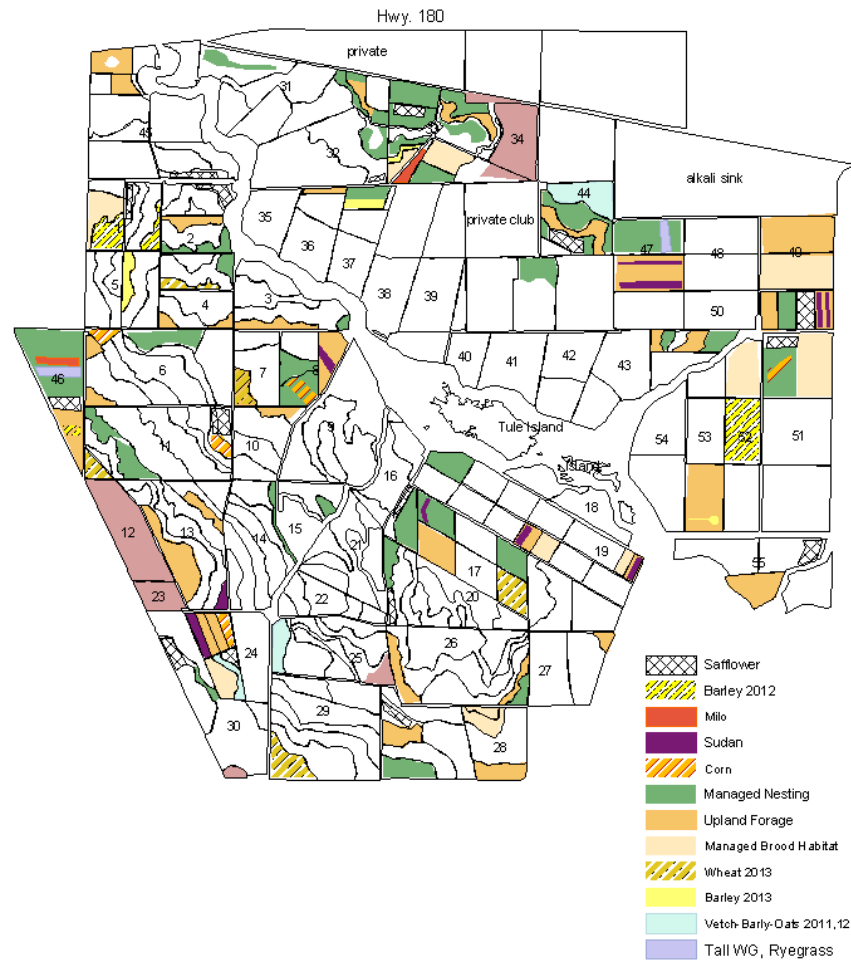
Mendota Wildlife Area



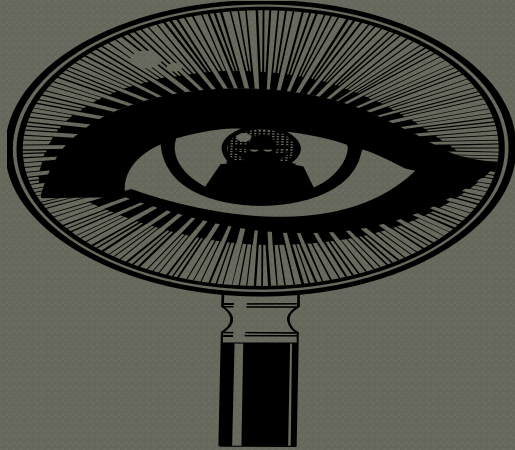
- Normal Water Supply
- Drought 65% Water Supply
- August Cells Flooded
- September Cells Flooded
- October Cells Flooded
- November Cells Flooded
- December/January Cells Flooded

MENDOTA WILDLIFE AREA

Proposed Uplands 2013



Be our eyes while you are in the field



- Report any dead or sick waterfowl in a group of 5 or more.
- Lack of early water and reduced food supply late season could lead to waterfowl disease and die-off.
- Call our office LBWA (209)826-0463; Mendota (559)655-4645 or report your observations to check station staff as soon as possible.

Thanks

- ◉ Agencies and organizations for participating
- ◉ Special thanks to Grasslands Water District for hosting this event and for their tireless efforts in securing water supplies for the wetlands of the Central Valley and specifically the Grasslands Ecological Area.
- ◉ California Waterfowl Association and Ducks Unlimited for providing the refreshment for this event.
- ◉ Public for participating in this information exchange